

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A hyaluronic acid modification product, in which hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is bound to a block polymer, selected from polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer, polyethylene oxide-poly(lactic acid)/polyglycolic acid copolymer-polyethylene oxide block polymer, poly(lactic acid)/polyglycolic acid copolymer-polyethylene oxide-poly(lactic acid)/polyglycolic acid copolymer block polymer, polyethylene oxide-poly(lactic acid)-polyethylene oxide block polymer and poly(lactic acid)-polyethylene oxide-poly(lactic acid) block polymer.

Claim 2 (original): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1, wherein said block polymer is a polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer or a polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein the most part of said block polymer is bound to said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof at ~~only~~ one of its two ends.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein said block polymer is bound to said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof at only one of its two ends.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein said block polymer is bound to the carboxyl group of said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the phase transition temperature of said hyaluronic acid modification product in physiological saline and/or phosphate physiological saline is in the range from 20°C to 35°C when the concentration of said hyaluronic acid modification product is 10.0% w/v or less.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein the weight average molecular weight of said block polymer is 1200 daltons or more.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein the ratio of introduction of said block polymer into the hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 8 mol % per the glucuronic acid in the hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the weight average molecular weight of said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is 1,500,000 daltons or less.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 as its main component.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical preparation for treating joint diseases, comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 as its main component.

Claim 12 (original): The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 11, wherein the joint disease is loss of articular cartilage, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis or scapulo-humeral periarthritis.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, which is in the form of an injection.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of treating joint diseases, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 14, wherein the joint disease is loss of articular cartilage, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis or scapulo-humeral periarthritis.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An assisting or treating agent for surgical operation, comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 as its main component.

Claim 17 (original): The assisting or treating agent according to claim 16, wherein the surgical operation is ophthalmic surgery or endoscopic mucosal resection.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of surgical operation, comprising applying to a target site a necessary amount of the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

Claim 19 (original): The method according to claim 18, wherein the surgical operation is ophthalmic surgery or endoscopic mucosal resection.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A tissue repairing agent comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 as its main component.

Claim 21 (original): The tissue repairing agent according to claim 20, which is used for repairing damage to soft tissue, atrophic irregularity after surgical operation, damage caused by Mohs' chemosurgical treatment, wrinkles or laceration scars in wrinkles.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A tissue repairing method comprising applying to a target site a necessary amount of the hyaluronic acid modification product according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1.

Claim 23 (original): The surgical operation method according to claim 22, which comprises repairing damage to soft tissue, atrophic irregularity after surgical operation, damage caused by Mohs' chemosurgical treatment, wrinkles or laceration scars in wrinkles.